



**Division of
Building
Safety**

ELECTRICAL NEWS BRIEF

Volume 1, Issue 3

February 15, 2005

Fluorescent Lighting Retrofits

Necessity is the mother of invention, and with the need to conserve energy, a whole new side industry sprung up. The expanding industry of fluorescent fixture retrofits has become a very competitive endeavor in the electrical industry.

The State of Idaho, Division of Building Safety, Electrical Bureau has some safety concerns about these field installations and would like to bring those issues to the industry's attention. Therefore, listed below are several of the major points of concern that a installer should be aware of.

1. Does the existing circuitry have the capacity to handle the new imposed harmonic load on the conductors, connections, transformers, and devices?
2. Lighting retrofit kits must be listed for the fixtures that they are being installed in. And shall be wired to that manufacture's instructions.
3. Some fixture have been miss-wired. NEMA has issued an informational bulletin regarding these installations on their web site at <http://www.nema.org/search/results.cfm?srchString=lsd+2b>.
4. The job requires a permit and inspection. (this installation is considered a change from the original installation, not maintenance)
5. The job requires the work to be performed by Idaho licensed contractors and journeyman.

If you have any questions or concerns on this issue of The Electrical News Brief please feel free to call either Gary Malmen Bureau Chief at 208-332-7147 or Jeff Fitzloff at 208-332-8980.